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Minutes, Arts & Sciences Finance and Service Committee Meeting, Tuesday, September 29, 2009

Arts & Sciences Finance and Service Committee

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Finance and Services Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes—Sept. 29, 2009

Committee Members Present: Arthur Grizzle (SGA), Eric Schutz, Lisa Tillmann, Laura Coar, Jeff Eisenbarth, Tonia Warnecke. Mandy Booker, Mary Throumoulos, and Larry Van Sickle (Recording Secretary)

Guest: Louisa Gibbs (student, SLAP Co-president)

I. Tillmann called the meeting to order. Minutes from September 8, 2009 meeting submitted by Schutz were reviewed and approved with minor adjustments.

II. Old Business:

1) Sweat Free Rollins Gear campus initiative: Gibbs reported that the Student Labor Action Project (SLAP) is researching peer and aspirant institutions that have joined the Workers' Rights Consortium (WRC) and are currently weighing the pros and cons of joining WRC. Presently they are working with the bookstore and view compliance with the Follett Vendor Code as a positive step. The bookstore is the only Rollins organization to embrace a vendors code although the college does belong to FLA (Fair Labor Association).

2) Board of trustees faculty colloquium for Friday, October 2, 2009: Schutz reported that he had made the room and refreshment arrangements. There was some discussion concerning the program details and it was decided that the session would be used to facilitate faculty discussion rather than structuring the session as a mere presentation by members of F&S. Schutz and Van Sickle were designated to compile the necessary data for the colloquium and Tillmann graciously accepted the responsibility of facilitating the discussion.

III. New Business:

1) Updates from the Committee on Environmental and Sustainability Issues (CESI): There were no new reports from the committee. Coar will provide an updated briefing at the October meeting.

2) Living Wage: Discussion focused on the issue that Rollins seemingly exercises little control over contractors/subcontractors regarding labor conditions. The general consensus was that Rollins should explore the possibility of developing a code of conduct for all of its vendors much like the Follett code mentioned above. It was suggested that Maria Martinez be extended an invitation to attend our next meeting to discuss living wage and employee benefits.

3) A "Socially Responsible" investing colloquium was proposed with a target date of January 2010.

4) The suggestion was made to invite Pat Schoknecht to the November meeting for an IT update or maybe schedule a faculty colloquium. Grizzle suggested a campus wide forum to facilitate student participation and everyone agreed. Warnecke will contact Schoknecht to secure her preference for the type of forum that will be most productive.

5) Warnecke reported on several initiatives:

A) Wasteful spending and vendor agreements- Warnecke expressed concern that financial transactions for the procurement of equipment and office furniture were non-competitive and not well researched. After extended discussion it was suggested that Rollins personnel who are directly impacted should have input concerning purchase of equipment/furniture for their respective work stations. Eisenbarth confirmed that it was college policy that this should be the case. He also added that anyone desiring furniture should make use of existing resources before requesting new acquisitions. Likewise he indicated that in terms of major or capital projects that "furnishing consultants" will actually consult with the consumer to facilitate ultimate employee satisfaction and maximize resource allocation.

B) Warnecke requested a definition of "sustainable business model." Eisenbarth indicated that the phrase (at least as

it is employed by the Rollins' Board of Trustees) is strictly a micro concept and entails adopting an evolving model of doing business as an institution of higher learning that insures solvency. He stressed that it meant a "common sense" approach, one that has worked for 125 years.

C) Warnecke also reported on the mandate to report textbook prices—After a brief discussion of this recent mandate, it was suggested that Tom Quinby be extended an invitation to attend the December meeting to offer clarification. It was also suggested that Jonathan Miller be invited to discuss the library's role regarding the possibility of mitigating some of the more troubling aspects of this new mandate.

6) Other Initiatives:

Tillmann reported that the Diversity Committee has issued an invitation to members of the F&S Committee to attend their meetings and in turn she has issued a reciprocal invitation as well.

The meeting was adjourned in a timely fashion and pleasantries were exchanged all round.